

Filed for intro on 02/02/95
House Bill _____
By _____

Senate No. SB0678
By Dixon

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 1, Part 1, relative to minority health.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 1, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated section:

(a) There is established, within the Department of Health, an office of minority health. The mission of the office shall be to advise and assist the commissioner in decreasing the disparities in mortality and morbidity between the minority and majority populations in Tennessee.

(b) With respect to the specific health care needs of the state's minority population, the office shall engage in appropriate activities to:

- (1) Increase access to health care;
- (2) Increase utilization of health care services;
- (3) Promote healthy lifestyles;
- (4) Improve public awareness of disease prevention issues;
- (5) Define and prioritize health care issues and disease entities;

(6) Recruit and retain minority health care professionals;

(7) Fund and evaluate demonstration projects; and

(8) Assist in developing the department's budgetary and programmatic strategies.

(c) Implementation of the provisions of this section shall be subject to funding being provided for such purpose in the general appropriations act.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 1995, the public welfare requiring it.

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